

Accelerator

FALL 2026



Newsletter at a Glance

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- Powering Sustainability at Home
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ACS Local Section
Indiana



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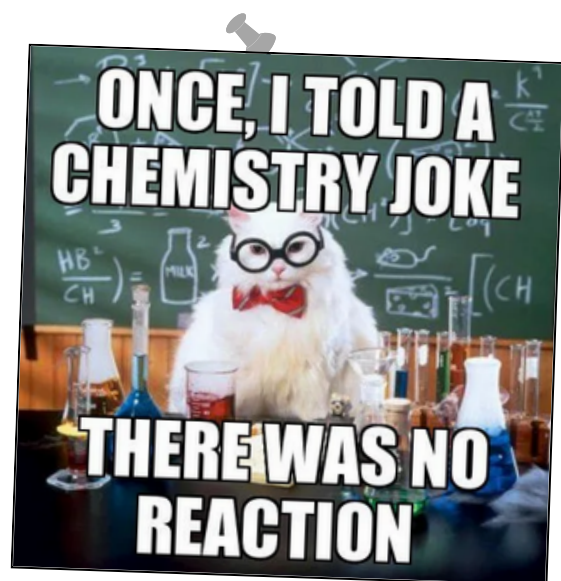




Upcoming Events

Don't miss out!

- August 27 – ACS/Eli Lilly and Company 150th Anniversary
- Fall – Think Like a Molecule @ BSU
- Fall – Promote Yourself
- Oct 5th – Circular Indiana
- Conference @ The Center
- Oct – National Chemistry Week
- Winter – Awards Night



YOU'RE INVITED

Lilly and American Chemical Society 150 Years of Shared Impact

Thursday August 27, 2026

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Cocktail Reception
South Commons, LCC

Friday August 28, 2026

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Symposium
93 Auditorium, LCC

Event Highlights

KEYNOTE LECTURE BY CAROLYN BERTOZZI

A History of Lilly Medicines

ACS Leadership Panel

Lilly Success Stories: From Chemistry to Medicine

Lilly Leadership Panel



Our Solar Journey: Powering Sustainability at Home

By: Linda Osborn, Senior Chemists Committee Chair

In June of 2023, we took a major step toward living more sustainably by installing a solar-plus-battery system on our property — a project that quickly became both a family effort and a community curiosity. My husband brought the technical know-how, and with the help of a few good friends, we installed 78 solar panels on our barn, paired with two 15 kW Sol-Ark hybrid inverters and four batteries capable of powering our 400-amp service. It was a significant undertaking and a large up-front investment, but one that immediately felt worthwhile. Not only did we receive a helpful federal tax credit after installation, but we also began seeing environmental and financial benefits almost right away.

Solar panels paired with battery storage are one of the most meaningful sustainability upgrades a household can make. By generating clean, renewable energy, we dramatically reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and cut greenhouse gas emissions, improving local air quality and shrinking our carbon footprint. Battery storage adds another layer of impact by easing strain on the grid during peak demand, helping communities avoid carbon-intensive peaker plants, and strengthening overall grid resilience. Together, solar and storage support a more decentralized, durable energy system and align with circular-economy principles, especially as modern components become increasingly recyclable. They also contribute to the growth of clean-energy jobs and increase home value by adding modern, efficient, environmentally responsible infrastructure.

Solar energy production isn't constant, and living with a system teaches you that firsthand. Snow-covered panels produce 0% output, cloudy days can reduce production by 40–80%, and Indiana's short winter days offer roughly 50% fewer peak sun hours than our long summer ones. Even panel angle, shading, and debris can cut efficiency by 5–25%. These natural fluctuations are exactly why battery storage matters: when sunlight is limited or unavailable, stored energy keeps your home running smoothly.



Photo 1: Solar Panels on the Barn Roof Our barn roof fully outfitted with 78 solar panels — the heart of our renewable energy system.

Our Solar Journey: Cont'd

That reliability has become one of our favorite parts of the system. When storms roll through, when the grid falters, or when outages strike, our lights stay on, our fridge (beer) stays cold, and our essential devices keep running. It's the closest thing to being outage-proof. Solar panels dramatically reduce our electric bill, and the batteries let us use our own stored energy at night, during peak-rate hours, or during outages, maximizing savings over the next 20–30 years.

We chose Sol-Ark after doing background research, since they were leaders in solar-plus-storage systems, known for durable, high-efficiency hybrid inverters that integrate seamlessly with home battery banks. Their smart engineering and long-term reliability made them a top choice since we wanted strong backup power, efficient daily energy use, and equipment built to support a cleaner, more resilient energy future.

Another important part of maintaining a solar-plus-battery system is keeping the equipment in a temperature-controlled area. Both inverters and lithium-based batteries operate best within a stable temperature range, and extreme heat or cold can reduce their efficiency, shorten their lifespan, or even trigger automatic shutdowns to protect the system. Batteries are sensitive to temperature swings; cold conditions reduce their ability to hold and deliver energy, while excessive heat can stress internal components. By housing our inverters and battery bank in a climate-controlled room, we ensure the system performs consistently year-round, charges and discharges at optimal levels, and avoids unnecessary wear. It's a simple step that protects a very significant investment and keeps the entire system running smoothly no matter what Indiana weather throws at us.

Most homeowners can expect a solar-plus-battery system to pay for itself in eight to twelve years, depending on energy usage, local utility rates, available incentives, and how much sunlight a property receives throughout the year. In Indiana, where electric rates continue to rise and federal tax credits remain strong, many households fall right in the middle of that range. Systems that offset a large portion of a home's electricity — like ours — often reach payback sooner because they dramatically reduce monthly bills and provide backup power during outages. Even with seasonal dips such as 0% production when panels are covered in snow, 40–80% reductions on cloudy days, and about 50% fewer peak sun hours in winter, the long summer production months typically make up the difference. Over the 25–30-year lifespan of a solar array, most homeowners save tens of thousands of dollars beyond the payback period, all while reducing their environmental footprint year after year.

We save money, reduce our environmental impact, and feel more connected to the energy we use every day. Installing solar wasn't just a home improvement — it was a commitment to sustainability, resilience, and responsible living. And it's one we're grateful for every time the sun comes up.



Photo 2: Electrical Service Wall
The upgraded electrical service that ties our solar panels, inverters, and batteries into a seamless whole-home system.



Photo 3: Battery Bank
(SimpliPhi eVault Max Units)
Our four battery units — the energy storage backbone that keeps our home powered even when the grid goes down.



Photo 4: Dual Sol-Ark Inverters
Our two Sol-Ark hybrid inverters — the brains of the system, converting solar energy into usable household power.

Strengthening Indiana's Talent Pipeline through Chemistry

By: Partha Basu

Chemistry is a foundational driver of economic growth, technological innovation, and workforce development in both the United States and Indiana. According to the American Chemistry Council, nationally the chemistry enterprise generates approximately \$673 billion in annual economic activity, supports more than 547,000 direct jobs, and underpins industries responsible for nearly one-quarter of U.S. GDP through its contributions to manufacturing, healthcare, agriculture, energy, transportation, and consumer products. Investments in chemistry research and education therefore extend far beyond the chemical industry, strengthening supply chains, advancing innovation, and enhancing national competitiveness.

Indiana is uniquely positioned as a national leader in chemistry-intensive industries, with strengths in pharmaceuticals, agricultural chemistry, advanced materials, diagnostics, and chemical manufacturing. The state leads the nation in pharmaceutical exports and hosts globally recognized companies such as Eli Lilly, Corteva Agriscience, Elanco, and Roche Diagnostics, supported by world-class research universities including Indiana University, Purdue University, and the University of Notre Dame. Together, these institutions create a robust innovation ecosystem that contributes significantly to Indiana's life sciences economy and positions the state for continued growth.

Despite strong industry demand, the chemistry workforce pipeline is shrinking. Employment opportunities for chemists and materials scientists continue to expand nationally and within Indiana, driven by investments in pharmaceutical manufacturing, biotechnology, advanced materials, and sustainable technologies. However, undergraduate chemistry enrollment and degree production have declined substantially over the past decade. Indiana's chemistry degree production has fallen by nearly 10% since 2015, mirroring national trends, even as demand for skilled professionals remains high.

According to a recent report by CNBC, in 2026 Indiana ranks 10th in the country for business. However, it ranks just 32nd in education (up slightly from 33rd in 2025) and 48th in quality of life, unchanged from the previous year. The growing mismatch between workforce demand and educational supply presents a significant challenge to Indiana's long-term economic competitiveness. Addressing the gap will require coordinated investments in chemistry education, workforce development, experiential learning, and partnerships among industry, universities, government, and professional societies. Building on strong technical foundations, future educational programs should also cultivate interdisciplinary skills, including data science, artificial intelligence, computational chemistry, and advanced analytical methods to prepare graduates for evolving careers across the modern chemical and life sciences industries. Strengthening Indiana's chemistry talent pipeline will ensure the state maintains its leadership in innovation, sustains economic growth, and meets the workforce needs of an increasingly science-driven economy.





BSU: SCIENCE DAY

Jacob Emert, graduated May 2026

The 2025-2026 school year was my first year as president of the Ball State University chapter of the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society. An annual tradition of this chapter is our “Science Day” event in April. This is a great way for science students from Ball State University and a neighboring institution (Marian University) to showcase their science for children in the Muncie community. While Science Day has many chemistry-centered demos, we invite other science-based campus organizations such as the genetics, physics, and fermentation clubs among others.



As the organizer, I worked with my other executives to ensure that each demo is accessible, fun, and impactful for the visiting children. I remember during this year’s event some children raving to their parents about certain phenomena they observed with gas discharge tubes and elephant’s toothpaste.



Science Day is also important to me on a very personal level; I grew up in Muncie and had classmates who did not have opportunities to learn about science. Science Day is my way to give back to this community and uphold the tradition of beneficence that Ball State instills in its students, and I have looked forward to this event every year.

Pictures from Science Day with Anastasia Faddis (former SAACS president) and Liam Stone (current SAACS VP)



ACS Local Section
Indiana

ACS CALC

The ACS Indiana Local Section Committee on the Advancement of LGBTQ+ Chemists (CALC) recently hosted a happy hour that brought together students, professionals, and allies from across the Indiana chemistry community. The event provided a welcoming and inclusive space for scientists to connect, share experiences, and build new relationships in a supportive and fun environment.

The CALC happy hour was a tremendous success, with an excellent turnout including many new ACS members. We are grateful to everyone who participated and helped make the gathering such a vibrant and meaningful networking opportunity.



COMIC CON 2026

Dr Alex Tamerius

Chemistry at Comic Con! This summer, the ACS Indiana Local section teamed up with the Science Education Foundation of Indiana to introduce kids to real superpowers through science! Kids discovered their own supersenses through touch, taste, smell, sight and sound activities. They also made their own super slime to take home. This event gave us the opportunity to showcase the value of science for achieving super innovations and encouraged families to join us for various other science outreach events that we offer throughout the year.



Sigma Zeta National Honor Society 2026 National Convention: A Collaborative Success

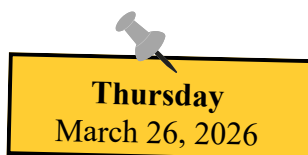
The **Sigma Zeta National Honor Society 2026 National Convention**, held March 26–28, 2026, was a tremendous success thanks to quick planning, dedicated volunteers, and a donation from the Indiana American Chemical Society (ACS).

Weeks before the convention, the originally scheduled host university withdrew its commitment, threatening to force the event into a virtual format. Determined to preserve the invaluable in-person experience, the Sigma Zeta **Gamma Eta Chapter** at Marian University and the **Rho Chapter** at the University of Indianapolis stepped forward to host the convention in Indianapolis.

Dr. Joyce Horton, advisor for the Gamma Eta Chapter, coordinated the Marian University portion of the event by reserving meeting spaces, arranging equipment, and organizing catering. Dr. Joe Burnell, Executive Director of Sigma Zeta and advisor for the Rho Chapter, managed convention registration and partnered with Corteva Agriscience to host the Friday program. Once the venues were secured, the Indiana ACS provided a generous \$5,000 contribution that made the convention possible.

The national convention provides Sigma Zeta members with an exceptional opportunity to present their research, collaborate with peers from across the country, and build professional networks while celebrating academic excellence.

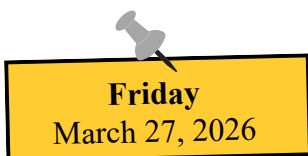
Sigma Zeta National Honor Society 2026 National Convention: Cont'd



Marian University

The convention began at Marian University with attendee registration and welcome activities. Students enjoyed dinner together before participating in a variety of social events designed to encourage interaction among chapters. Activities included a campus scavenger hunt, bingo, painting, bracelet making, board games, and card games. Each attendee also received a welcome bag they filled with snacks and drinks for the weekend.

During the evening, faculty advisors gathered for dinner and the annual advisors' meeting, where Sigma Zeta officers presented their reports summarizing the organization's accomplishments over the past year.



Corteva Agriscience

Friday's events were hosted at Corteva Agriscience and featured student poster sessions and oral research presentations showcasing outstanding undergraduate scholarship. Corteva provided lunch in the atrium, followed by the convention awards banquet.

During the banquet, Luna Holley received the prestigious Chapter Honor Award in recognition of her outstanding achievements. Attendees also had the unique opportunity to tour Corteva Agriscience's research facilities and participate in an alumni panel discussion, where they learned about career paths and asked questions of Sigma Zeta alumni working in science and industry.